AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawings include changes to Fig. 1-5. These sheets, which include Figs. 1-5, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1-5. In the replacement sheets, "RELATED ART" has been replaced with "PRIOR ART."

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

REMARKS

Claims 1-20, 22-27 and 29-30 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, FIGs. 1-5 and claims 1, 7, 8, 12, 19, 22-24 and 27 are amended, claims 21 and 28 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 29-30 are added. Various amendments are made to the claims for clarity and are unrelated to issues of patentability.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Office Action's indication that claims 8-11 and 24 contain allowable subject matter. However, as will be discussed below, all pending claims are believed to be allowable.

The Office Action states that FIGs. 1-5 should be labeled as "Prior Art." In order to further prosecution, each of FIGs. 1-5 has been labeled as "PRIOR ART." This is not an admission as to prior art.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7, 12, 13 and 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,208,871 to Hall et al. (hereafter Hall) in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2001/0047240 to Longoni et al. (hereafter Longoni). The Office Action also rejects claims 19-23 and 25-28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hall in view of WO 99/27740 to Wallentin. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites adjusting a base time for the uplink synchronous transmission of communication data by the mobile station to match the base time of an uplink synchronization scheme of the second base station when the mobile station moves from a first area corresponding to the first base station to a second area corresponding to the second base station.

The Office Action agrees that Hall does not disclose the mobile station adjusting a base time for the uplink synchronous transmission of communication data to match the base time of an uplink synchronization scheme of the second base station. The Office Action then appears to rely upon Longoni as teaching adjusting the base time for uplink synchronous transmission of data to match that of a second base station. However, Longoni does not discuss synchronization utilized during a hand-off. In particular, the Office Action cites Longoni's paragraph [0046] that merely describes that the MS and the RNC may synchronize their frame numbering schemes with that of BS1. However, there is no suggestion for adjusting the base time for the uplink synchronous transmission of communication data by the mobile station to match the base time of an uplink synchronization scheme of the second base station when the mobile station moves to a first area corresponding to a first base station to a second area corresponding to the second base station, as recited in independent claim 1. Stated differently, Longoni's paragraph [0046] does not relate to adjusting base times when a mobile station moves from a first area (corresponding to a first base station) to a second area (corresponding to a second base station). For at least these reasons, independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 12 also defines patentable subject matter for at least similar reasons. More specifically, independent claim 12 recites changing a base time for the synchronous transmission scheme used by a mobile station to a base time of the second base station in response to movement of the mobile station into an area served by the second base station.

For at least the reasons set forth above, the applied references do not teach or suggest these features of independent claim 12. Accordingly, independent claim 12 defines patentable subject matter.

Additionally, independent claim 19 recites measuring a first communication characteristic between a common terminal and a target terminal, measuring a second communication characteristic between a current terminal and the common terminal, and determining whether to establish a synchronous communication link between the common terminal and the target terminal based on the measured first communication characteristic and the measured second communication characteristic. Independent claim 19 further recites establishing the synchronous communication link between the common terminal and the target terminal, the synchronous communication link established in accordance with a timing adjustment value derived from the first communication characteristic measurement and transitioning communication service support for the common terminal from the current terminal to the target terminal, using the synchronous communication link.

Features of independent claim 19 were previously recited in dependent claim 21. The applied references do not teach or suggest all the features of independent claim 19. In particular, the applied references do not relate to measuring a first communication characteristic between a common terminal and a target terminal, and measuring a second communication characteristic between a current terminal and the common terminal. In rejecting previous dependent claim 21, the Office Action asserts that it would have been obvious to measure not only one characteristic but also a second characteristic. However, applicants respectfully submit that the applied

references do not teach or suggest features regarding measuring the first communication characteristic and measuring the second communication characteristic. Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office to provide prior art references showing these features.

Hall and Wallington also do not teach or suggest determining whether to establish a synchronous communication link between the common terminal and the target terminal based on the measured first communication characteristic and the measured second communication characteristic. Hall does not relate to determining whether to establish a synchronous communication link as Hall merely relates to calculating time offset differences. There is no suggestion for determining whether to establish a synchronous communication link based on measured first and second communication characteristics. Additionally, Wallington does not teach or suggest these missing features. That is, the Office Action appears to cite Wallington's page 9, lines 3-12. However, there is no suggestion for determining whether to establish a synchronous communication link.

Additionally, independent claim 19 recites transitioning communication service support for the common terminal from the current terminal to the target terminal, using the synchronous communication link. The Office Action cites Wallington's page 9, lines 3-12 for these features. However, this section does not relate to transitioning communication service support using a synchronous communication link as recited in independent claim 19.

For at least the reasons set forth above, the applied references do not teach or suggest all the features of independent claim 19. Thus, independent claim 19 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 27 also defines patentable subject matter. More specifically, independent claim 27 recites that a network controller establishes a synchronous communication link by changing a mode of communication between the target terminal and the common terminal from an asynchronous mode to a synchronous mode and changing a mode of communication between the current terminal and the common terminal from the synchronous mode to the asynchronous mode.

The applied references do not teach or suggest at least these features of independent claim 27. More specifically, features of independent claim 27 relating to changing the mode from an asynchronous mode to a synchronous mode and from a synchronous mode to the asynchronous node were previously recited in dependent claim 24, which was indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 27 also defines patentable subject matter. That is, Hall and Wallington do not teach or suggest features relating to changing the mode of communication between the target terminal and the common terminal from an asynchronous mode to a synchronous mode and changing a mode of communication between the current terminal and the common terminal from the synchronous mode to the asynchronous mode. Thus, independent claim 27 defines patentable subject matter.

New independent claim 29 defines patentable subject matter for at least similar reasons as set forth above with respect to independent claim 27 (and with respect to previous dependent claim 24). That is, independent claim 29 recites measuring a first communication characteristic between a common terminal and a target terminal, and establishing the synchronous communication link between the common terminal and the target terminal, the synchronous

communication link established in accordance with a timing adjustment value derived from the first communication characteristic measurement. Independent claim 29 also recites that establishing the synchronous communication link includes changing a mode of communication between the target terminal and the common terminal from an asynchronous mode to a synchronous mode and changing a mode of communication between the current terminal and the common terminal from the synchronous mode to the asynchronous mode. For at least similar reasons as set forth above, the applied references do not teach or suggest all the features of independent claim 29. Thus, independent claim 29 defines patentable subject matter.

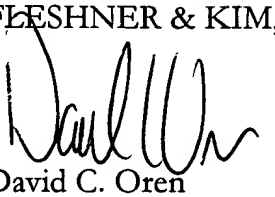
For at least the reasons set forth above, each of independent claims 1, 12, 19, 27 and 29 defines patentable subject matter. Each of the dependent claims depends from one of the independent claims and therefore defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason. In addition, the dependent claims recite features that further and independently distinguish over the applied references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20, 22-27 and 29-30 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP



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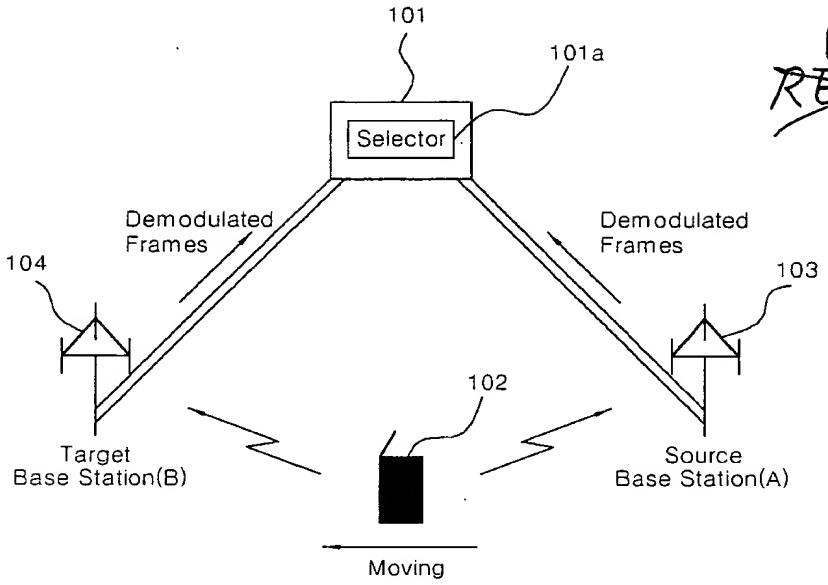
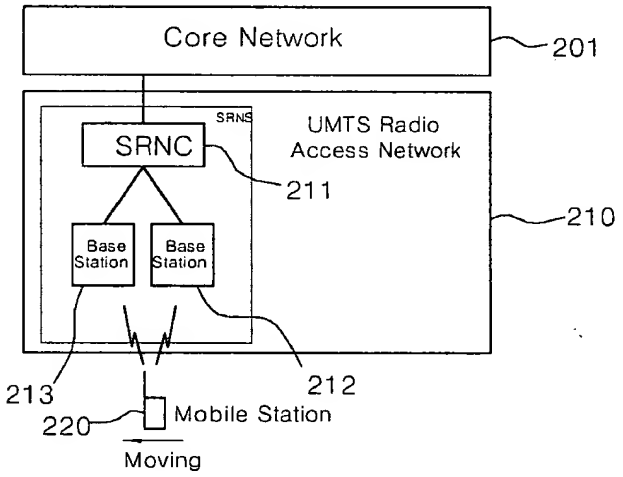
ANNOTATED SHEET

FIG. 1



PRIOR RELATED ART

FIG. 2

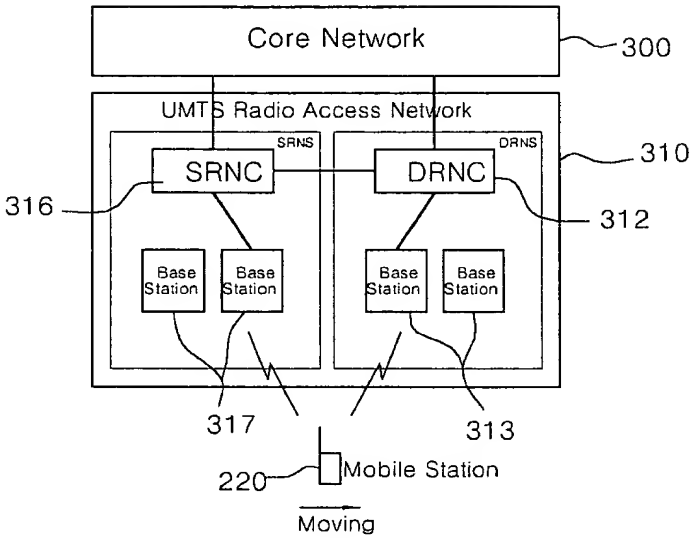


PRIOR RELATED ART

ANNOTATED SHEET

FIG. 3

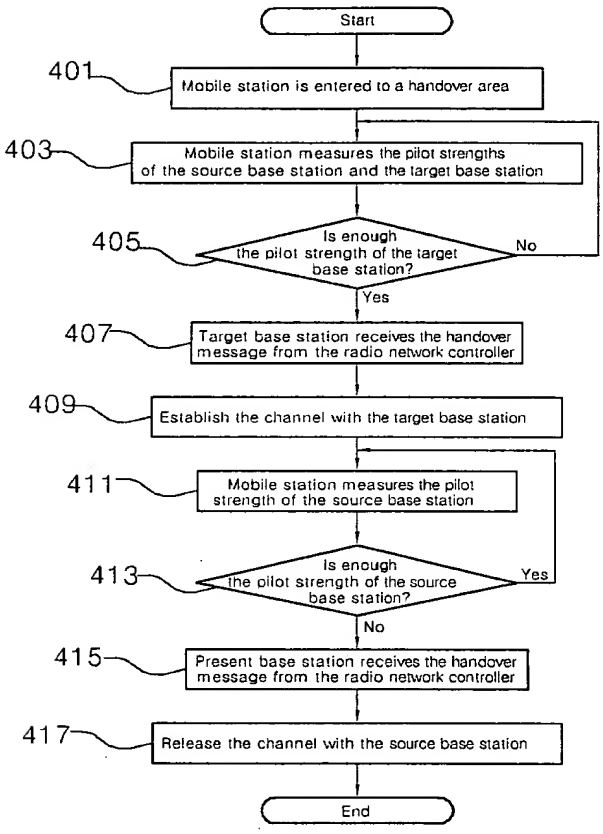
~~RELATED ART~~
PRIOR



ANNOTATED SHEET

FIG. 4

~~RELATED~~ PRIOR ART



ANNOTATED SHEET

FIG. 5

Prior ~~RELATED~~ ART